

**SENATE JOURNAL**  
**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST SESSION**

**Juneau, Alaska**

**Wednesday**

**February 12, 2025**

**Twenty-third Day**

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:46 a.m.

The roll showed eighteen members present. Senator Olson was excused from a call of the Senate. Senator Dunbar was absent.

The prayer was sung by the Chaplain, Reverend Bobby Lewis, New Light Baptist Church of Harlem, New York. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

God bless America, land that I love  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains to the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam  
God bless America, my home sweet home  
God bless America, my home sweet home      Amen.

Senator Merrick led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Certification**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the twenty-first and twenty-second legislative days be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Dunbar be excused from a call of the Senate today. Without objection, Senator Dunbar was excused.

### **Communications**

The following reports are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Department of Education and Early Development  
State Board of Education and Early Development  
Annual Report January 2025  
in accordance with AS 14.07.168

Correspondence School Reporting  
in accordance with ch. 47, SLA 2024

Legislative Finance Division  
Inactive State Funds Report  
FY 2026  
in accordance with AS 24.20.231

Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
Technical and Vocational Education Program Report  
State Fiscal Year 2024  
in accordance with AS 23.15.835

Department of Environmental Conservation  
Annual Loan Fund Report FY 2024  
Alaska Drinking Water and Clean Water Funds  
in accordance with AS 37.05.035 and AS 46.03.032

Alaska Court System  
Annual Report FY 2024  
in accordance with AS 22.20.310

**Standing Committee Reports****SB 50**

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 50 "An Act relating to the comprehensive plans of first and second class boroughs" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 50(CRA)

Signing no recommendation: Senator Merrick, Chair; Senator Yundt.  
Signing do pass: Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development

The bill was referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

**SB 73**

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 73 "An Act relating to the registration of marijuana establishments; relating to a tax exemption for qualified small businesses; relating to marijuana taxes; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senator Gray-Jackson.  
Signing no recommendation: Senators Merrick, Yundt. Signing  
amend: Senator Dunbar.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Commerce, Community, and  
Economic Development.

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Corrections

Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Health

Fiscal Note No. 4, Department of Health

Fiscal Note No. 5, Department of Health

Fiscal Note No. 6, Department of Revenue

Fiscal Note No. 7, Department of Public Safety

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

**Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills****SB 93**

SENATE BILL NO. 93 BY SENATOR TOBIN, entitled:

"An Act relating to district-wide early education programs; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Education and Finance Committees.

**SB 94**

SENATE BILL NO. 94 was not introduced.

**SB 95**

SENATE BILL NO. 95 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to the child care assistance program and the child care grant program; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Health and Social Services and Finance Committees.

**SB 96**

SENATE BILL NO. 96 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to education tax credits for certain payments and contributions for child care and child care facilities; relating to the insurance tax education credit, the income tax education credit, the oil or gas producer education credit, the property tax education credit, the mining business education credit, the fisheries business education credit, and the fisheries resource landing tax education credit; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of secs. 1, 2, and 21, ch. 61, SLA 2014; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and Finance Committees.

**SB 97**

SENATE BILL NO. 97 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act establishing a big game guide concession area permit program on land in the state; relating to the duties of the Big Game Commercial Services Board, the Board of Game, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Natural Resources; requiring the Board of Game to establish an initial big game guide concession area; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Resources and Finance Committees.

**SB 98**

SENATE BILL NO. 98 BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Veterinary Examiners; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and Finance Committees.

**Consideration of the Calendar****Citations**

Honoring - North Pole High School Girls Flag Football Champions  
Representative(s) Prax  
Senator(s) Myers

Honoring - Chris Graeber  
Representative(s) Tilton, McCabe

In Memoriam - Dane Ferguson  
Representative(s) Tilton, Saddler

In Memoriam - Terry Dean Fouts  
Representative(s) Tilton, McCabe

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citations be adopted. Without objection, the citations were adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **SB 9**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 9 "An Act relating to the surrender of infants; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

#### **SB 93**

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 93 "An Act relating to district-wide early education programs; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

### **Recess**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess to the Joint Session. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 10:57 a.m.

### **After Recess**

#### **Joint Session in the House**

Speaker Edgmon called the House to order and in accordance with Uniform Rule 51 turned the gavel over to President Stevens, who called the Joint Session to order at 11:09 a.m.

The purpose of the Joint Session was to hear Chief Justice Susan M. Carney's State of the Judiciary Address.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the roll call of the Senate be waived and all members be shown as present. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent the roll call of the House be waived and all members be shown as present. Without objection, it was so ordered.

President Stevens appointed Senator Claman and Representative Gray to escort Chief Justice Susan M. Carney to the Joint Session.

The Senate Sergeant at Arms, Matt Simpson, announced Chief Justice Carney's entrance to the House Chamber.

Chief Justice Carney was escorted to the rostrum and welcomed by President Stevens and Speaker Edgmon.

Chief Justice Carney delivered her address. This address appears in House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 3.

The Chief Justice received a standing ovation.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Joint Session stand in adjournment. Without objection, President Stevens adjourned the Joint Session at 11:42 a.m.

### **After Recess**

### **In The Senate**

The Senate reconvened at 11:46 a.m.

### **Announcements**

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

**Adjournment**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., February 14, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Liz Clark  
Secretary of the Senate



**Announcements**

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice - Persons with disabilities who require special accommodation or alternative communication formats to access committee meetings may contact the appropriate committee office or the Legislative Information Office in their community. Reasonable advance notice is needed to accommodate the request. For further information, call the ADA Coordinator at 465-3854 Voice/465-4980 TDD.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

+ indicates teleconference

= indicates bill previously heard/scheduled

**EDUCATION**

<b>Feb 12</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+ SB 41	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 22	FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 23	CIVICS EDUCATION		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
<b>Feb 14</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	Presentation: Alaska's per pupil spending in context: 2022 and 2023 updates		
	Matthew Berman, Professor of Economics, Institute of Social and Economic Research		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

**FINANCE**

**Feb 12                      Wednesday                      Senate Finance 532                      9:00 AM**  
 + SB 56 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP  
 + SB 58 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET  
 Overview: Letters of Agreement  
 Legislative Finance Division  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 -- Continued from 02/10/25 --  
 + Presentation: Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC)  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 13                      Thursday                      Senate Finance 532                      9:00 AM**  
 + Presentation: Order of Operations  
 Department of Revenue  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 14                      Friday                      Senate Finance 532                      9:00 AM**  
 No Meeting Scheduled

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**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Feb 13                      Thursday                      Butrovich 205                      3:30 PM**  
 + Presentation: Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education  
 += SB 76 COMPLEX CARE RESIDENTIAL HOMES  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**JUDICIARY**

**Feb 12                      Wednesday                      Butrovich 205                      1:30 PM**  
 += SB 69 SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS/TRACKING  
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**JUDICIARY (continued)**

**Feb 14          Friday                                  Butrovich 205                  1:30 PM**  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**LABOR & COMMERCE**

**Feb 12          Wednesday                                  Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                  1:30 PM**  
 += SB 80 EXTEND BOARDS  
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --  
 += SB 79 PAYMENT OF WAGES; PAYROLL CARD ACCOUNT  
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --  
 + SB 55 TRS CONTR RATE; PERS/TRS SOC SECUR OR SBS  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 14          Friday                                  Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                  1:30 PM**  
 No Meeting Scheduled

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**RESOURCES**

**Feb 12          Wednesday                                  Butrovich 205                  3:30 PM**  
 + EO 136 ESTABLISH DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Feb 14          Friday                                  Butrovich 205                  3:30 PM**  
 + Presentation: Alaska Industrial Development and  
 Export Authority  
 Randy Ruaro - Executive Director, AIDEA  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**STATE AFFAIRS**

**Feb 13**                      **Thursday**                                      **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)**                      **3:30 PM**  
 +  
 Presentation: Department of Corrections  
 Overview  
 April Wilkerson, Deputy Commissioner of Pretrial,  
 Probation, Parole and Operations  
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**TRANSPORTATION**

**Feb 13**                      **Thursday**                                      **Butrovich 205**                      **1:30 PM**  
 +  
 Presentation: STIP Update and Construction  
 Outlook  
 Ryan Anderson, Commissioner  
 Katherine Keith, Deputy Commissioner  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEES****SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS**

**Feb 13**                      **Thursday**                                      **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)**                      **1:30 PM**  
 +  
 Presentation: Farming in the north: Partnering  
 research and industry for Alaska  
 Jodie Anderson - Director, Institute of  
 Agriculture, Natural Resources and Extension  
 Scott Mugrage - President, Alaska Farm Bureau  
 Amy Seitz - Policy Director, Alaska Farm Bureau  
 Rita Jo Shoultz - Secretary/Treasurer, Alaska  
 Farm Bureau  
 Ken Hoffman - Alaska Farm Bureau  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**JOINT COMMITTEES**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Feb 12                      Wednesday                                              Adams 519                                              5:15 PM**

-- Teleconference <Listen Only> --  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

- I. Call to Order
- II. Committee Organization
  - a. Election of the Chair
  - b. Election of the Vice Chair
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Committee Policies
  - a. Quorum and Voting Requirements
  - b. Alternate Members
  - c. Sanctioning of Charitable Events Policy
  - i. Ratifications
    - one. Juneau Dance Theater Gala
    - two. Juneau Animal Rescue Fundraiser
  - d. Subcommittees Policy
    - i. IT Subcommittee
- V. Approval of Minutes
  - a. December 12, 2024, Minutes
- VI. Committee Business
  - a. FY24 Legislature Audit
  - b. 2025 Manual of Legislative Drafting
  - c. Janus Litigation Contract - Amendment No. 1
  - d. FY26 Legislative Council Budget Request
  - e. Committee Records Archiving Policy
- VII. Adjourn

\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**OTHER MEETINGS**

**JOINT SESSION**

**Feb 12                      Wednesday                                              House Chamber                                              11:00 AM**

+ State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Justice  
Susan Carney

**JOINT SESSION (continued)**

**Feb 20**                    **Thursday**                    **House Chamber**                    **11:00 AM**  
 + Annual Address by Nick Begich III, U.S. Representative

**Mar 18**                    **Tuesday**                    **House Chamber**                    **11:00 AM**  
 + Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator

**Mar 20**                    **Thursday**                    **House Chamber**                    **11:00 AM**  
 + Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator

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**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

**Feb 19**                    **Wednesday**                    **Butrovich 205**                    **12:00 PM**  
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
 Covenant House Alaska  
 Sponsored by Senator Tobin

**Feb 19**                    **Wednesday**                    **Davis 106**                    **12:00 PM**  
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
 Dock Talk: The Work of Alaska Longshoremen  
 Dennis Young, President, ILWU  
 Jesse Groom, Vice President, ILWU  
 Darryl Tseu, Secretary/Treasurer, ILWU  
 Caleb Adelman, SC Committeeman, ILWU  
 Travis Swangel, SW Committeeman, ILWU  
 Sponsored by Senator Kiehl and Representative Fields

**Feb 24**                    **Monday**                    **Butrovich 205**                    **12:00 PM**  
 Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
 Alaska Trucking Association Priorities  
 Jamie Benson, President/CEO  
 Sponsored by Senator Bjorkman and Representative Carrick

**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)**

<b>Feb 26</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: 2025 Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure American Society of Civil Engineers - Alaska Section as part of the Alaska Professional Design Council annual Legislative Fly-In David Gamez, Tor Anderzen, Greg Kinney Sponsored by Senator Kaufman		
<b>Mar 19</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Travel and Tourism Alaska Travel Industry Association Sponsored by Senator Merrick		
<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska's Workforce Future Alaska Workforce Alliance Jose Owens, American Marine International Carol Wren, BBNC and AWA Executive Director Sponsored by Senator Merrick		
<b>Apr 09</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Commission of Postsecondary Education Sponsored by Senator Tobin		